

Regular Meeting #37 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 17, 2019

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:01 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Dennis Keller, Todd McCullough, Tony Vogel, Aunie Cordle, Judge Vandervoort, Jeff Barron, Mark Conrad, Jake Tharp, Jon Slater, Jeff Porter, Chief Lape, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Dave Burgei, Patrick O'Malia, and David Miller.

- Welcome
- Legal Update

Ms. Brown -Thompson stated she did not have a legal update.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

a. Announcements

We acknowledged Constitution Day and its significance to our country.

We reviewed date reminders:

- September 26 – Leadership Conference – at the WigWam
- September 27 – Job Fair at OU-L
- October 1 – Complete Count Committee - Census 2020 Meeting
- October 9 – Time with the Commission @ The Fair (Individually)
- October 11 – Offices Closed for The Fair (fact sheet sent)
- October 24 – Budget Hearings begin

b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 22 resolutions planned for the voting meeting.

We proposed a resolution approving the revocation of the intention to withdraw from the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center and to rescind Resolution 2019-05.14.c. There was a letter prepared for communication to the Joint Board of Commissioners and MCJDC leadership. The letter highlighted the importance of the work in right sizing the Fairfield County contribution to the joint venture.

We had a proclamation for Constitution Week.

We had a resolution to set a hearing date for a regular annexation from Greenfield Township to the City of Lancaster. This was a resolution to establish a public hearing for an annexation petition received from Mr. Thomas W. Winkhart, agent for Mr. Brad Hutchinson, Managing Member of the Mithoff Companies, Ltd, requests to annex 76.877 +/- acres from Greenfield Township into the City of Lancaster. (See below with new business.)

We had a resolution to accept the Community Action purchase of a truck for the CFLP related recycling program.

The Engineer proposed a resolution to approve the contract bid award for the FAI-CR33A-3.26 Intersection Improvement Project.

We had a resolution to authorize the County Administrator to approve contracts and agreements associated with the Fairfield County Health Benefit Plan through the 2021 plan year. There will be ongoing updates about the contracts and plan. We discussed last week the approach was to have no more than a 2% increase in rates. This has been communicated for budget purposes.

**Regular Meeting #37 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 17, 2019**

There were *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve, such as:

- An advance for JFS and the repayment of an advance by Juvenile Court;
- Grant accounting (and corrections) for EMA and a fund to fund transfer of appropriations for the Prosecutor's VOCA grant;
- A JFS state funding correction and transfer (non-county transaction);
- SSI reimbursements for CPS;
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the Common Pleas Court (TCAP), County Engineer, Airport, and the Prosecutor (all non-general fund activity);
- Account to account transfers of appropriations for Economic Development and IT;
- Interest credits for the County Parks District and Health Department; and
- The payment of bills.

There were multiple resolutions in queue for next week, including financial resolutions, mostly non-general fund appropriations, and contracts at various stages of progress. There was also a resolution to approve the annexation of 1.412 +/- acres from Bloom Township to the Village of Lithopolis, Expedited Type II, pursuant to ORC 709.023, Annexation of Land by Stephen F. Gredicak.

Relating to the annexation from Greenfield Township to the City of Lancaster, Mr. Davis stated that the Commission will end up in a quasi-judicial position as discretion will be involved for this decision, unlike expedited annexation petitions. He will reserve comment until he hears from everyone at the public hearing.

c. Administrative, Program, and Budget Update

Administrative & Program Updates

The review packet contained a list of administrative approvals. There were no questions posed.

The Leadership Conference agenda was ready, and a copy was in the review packet.

Idea Box Update:

Summary of Idea 14: The employee suggested the use of the snipping tool, as opposed to attaching files for efficiency and security purposes, whenever appropriate.

Summary of Response: Thank you for the idea. It has been to the Treasurer (who sends the ACH file for review daily) and to IT to consider for a training video or instructional sheet. The sender of the email will need to determine the most appropriate method of distribution.

Follow up: The Treasurer is going to begin using the tool with daily deposit emails. IT already had a training tool to modify and send to all. Thanks!

Summary of Idea 15: It would be great to take off the old wax and super clean the Administrative Courthouse hallways. As items have been moved or scooted across the floors in the hallways, you can see that there is a much lighter, beautiful color underneath the wax that has accumulated over the years.

Summary of Response: Facilities is already planning on a super cleaning of the hallway floors, potentially using existing staff or a contracted service, once the final moves in the Administrative Courthouse are completed. Thanks for the idea!

Budget Update

Budget hearings have been set for the 2020 budget.

Regular Meeting #37 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 17, 2019

With few exceptions, departments are following parameters or coming close with the spirit of the parameters.

The current 2020 projection will include:

- 27 pays instead of 26 pays (\$743,000 increase in an annual budget)
- increases of up to 3% for departments implementing performance goals and assessments while complying with the compensation plan
- increases of 2% increases for departments who do not follow such strategic development
- an increase of 2% for the health benefits plan
- a new, annual \$100,000 training grant for MAGNA

We are evaluating the need for capital improvements and one-time improvements for the workforce center (essentially replacing one-time improvements made for a radio tower in 2019).

The reduction in the MCJDC allocation is currently offset by requested increases from Juvenile/Probate Court, which are under review and were somewhat expected given changes in special revenue funds.

It is good to highlight planned reductions in the budget which will be reflected as actual reductions in spending. A significant decrease is with electronic monitoring with more than \$343,000 reflected as a decrease in 2020. An additional \$68,000 decrease in 2020 is projected with a reduction of pharmacy costs. Both reductions are related to management of contract monitoring and issuing invitations to bid or some other form of competitive bidding.

We will continue to monitor revenues and expenditures.

We were aware of three counties who have increased their sales tax rates. Fairfield County's rate has not increased since January 1, 2010:

- Fairfield – 6.75%
- Hocking, Licking, Perry, Ross, & Pickaway – 7.25%
- Franklin – 7.50%

The review packet contained a sales tax map.

Sales tax revenues are up 2.7% over last year, on track for about \$22 M for the year; conveyance fees are up 6.2% over last year, on track for about \$3.1 M for the year; casino revenues are up 1.9%, on track for about \$1.8 M for the year. No adjustments are necessary to projections.

d. BRAVOs

Thank you to Fairfield Medical Center and HR for their ongoing partnership for the Wellness Clinic, which is being renewed at the same rate for the next two years.

BRAVO to everyone for their support of the United Way event on September 12th! One measure of health for a community is support of those less fortunate, and it is great to see Fairfield County unite in this effort to be supportive. (We reviewed pictures from the Community Care Day.)

Thank you to Dennis Keller and the Facilities Team for continuing to monitor the energy performance of our county buildings. You will recall that the energy conservation program implemented in July 2014 involved multiple upgrades, such as new windows, heating and cooling units, and lighting. The resulting has been savings of \$498,392.80 through July 2019. We are continuing to evaluate the

**Regular Meeting #37 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 17, 2019**

energy impacts for a solar project pilot, the upgrade to the Administrative Courthouse, and additional LED lights. The environmental stewardship group continues to meet regularly.

- Old Business

- a. ADAMH Board Vacancy

The most recent county appointment to the ADAMH Board was Lisa Wells. At the time of her appointment last month, there were two other highly qualified candidates. There could be a position to become open soon, and Ms. Laura Coholich remains interested even though she would be required to resign from the New Horizons Board. We also believe other candidates would be interested. For now, we await new information to come from ADAMH about a potential vacancy.

- New Business

- a. Regular Annexation Petition Received – 76.877 +/- acres from Greenfield Township to Lancaster

We received a petition for a regular annexation from Greenfield Township to the City of Lancaster (Timbertop). The attorney for the petitioner indicated they do not believe they qualify for an expedited filing for the following reasons:

- Expedited Type 1 requires a CEDA or Annexation Agreement between the City of Lancaster and Greenfield Township, which they don't have.
- Expedited Type 2 requires that the property to be annexed will remain subject to the Township's real property taxes, which they don't want.
- Expedited Type 3 requires significant economic development, defined as \$10M real and personal property investment and \$1M new annual payroll, and (unless otherwise agreed to), the land to be annexed remains subject to the Township's real property taxes, which they don't want.

Therefore, there will be the regular annexation process, which requires a petition by at least 51% of the property owners. The steps are for the Board of Commissioners to:

- Enter the petition on the journal (9.17.2019)
- Refer the packet to the County Engineer (done)
- Set a hearing date (with a resolution on 9.17.2019) – not less than 60 nor more than 90 days after the petition was filed
- Send notice to petitioner's agent
- Then the agent will provide notice and file proof of service with the Board of County Commissioners.
- There are additional, multiple steps shown in the review packet.

The Board of Commissioners will adopt a resolution granting or denying the petition for annexation within 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing.

- General Correspondence Received (none)

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received (none)

- FYI

- a. Jail Population – 331
 - b. ODNR Property Owner Notification for Kirkersville Feeder Canal Study
 - c. Thank you from Picktown Palooza

Regular Meeting #37 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 17, 2019

- d. Article of Interest – Sheriff's Office works on human trafficking case with 104 arrests in Franklin, Delaware, and Fairfield Counties
- e. Article of Interest – Sheriff's Office investigating Diley Ridge Medical Center incident
- f. JFS e-link

- Open Items

Executive Session – Imminent Litigation

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Dave Levacy, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss imminent litigation at 9:29 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy, Commissioner Fix, Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jeff Porter, representatives from the Sheriff's Office, and representatives from the Prosecutor's Office

Roll call on the motion as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix

On the motion of Jeff Fix and second of Steve Davis, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 9:43 a.m.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Review (continued)

The Commissioners met at 9:43 a.m. to continue review of legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jeff Porter, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, and Chief Lape.

Executive Session – Pending Litigation

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Jeff Fix, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 9:44 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy, Commissioner Fix, Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, and representatives from the Prosecutor's Office

Roll call on the motion as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy

On the motion of Jeff Fix and second of Steve Davis, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 9:51 a.m.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Review (continued)

The Commissioners met at 9:51 a.m. to continue review of legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, , Amy Brown-Thompson, and Tom Lininger.

Commissioner Levacy stated at 9:51 a.m. that the Commission would be in recess until the 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting.

**Regular Meeting #37 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 17, 2019**

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Tom Lininger, Amy Brown-Thompson, Staci Knisley, Judge Vandervoort, Aunie Cordle, Jon Kochis, Jim Bahnsen, Jeff Barron, Tony Vogel, Todd McCullough, Jeff Porter, Chief Lape, Jeff Camechis, Dennis Keller, Jon Slater, Dave Burgei, David Miller, Ray Stemen, and Jake Tharp.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Levacy asked everyone to rise as able, and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Commissioner Levacy asked if there were any announcements.

There were no announcements

Public Comment

Commissioner Levacy asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments.

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, September 10, 2019

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, September 10, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Approval of the Commissioners' Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' Office resolution approving the revocation of the intention to withdraw from the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center and to rescind Resolution 2019-05.14.c; see resolution 2019-09.17.a.

Discussion: Mr. Fix's comments regarding his decision to vote against the resolution are attached. Mr. Davis stated he appreciated the comments and would continue to work to come to a long term, fiscally responsible solution.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis and Dave Levacy

Voting nay thereon: Jeff Fix

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' Office resolutions:

2019-09.17.b A resolution to accept the purchase of Garbage (Recycling) Truck for Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency (LFCAA) out of Coshocton Fairfield Licking Perry (CFLP) Solid Waste District grant monies – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]

2019-09.17.c A resolution authorizing the approval of a proclamation [Commissioners]

2019-09.17.d A resolution authorizing to appropriate from unappropriated, Approval of fund to fund transfer, & Approval to forgive repayment of advance due to

Regular Meeting #37 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 17, 2019

the General Fund from the EMA Fund# 2707, subfund# 8183 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]

- 2019-09.17.e A resolution to establish a public hearing for an annexation petition received from Mr. Thomas W. Winkhart, agent for Mr. Brad Hutchinson, Managing Member of the Mithoff Companies, Ltd, requests to annex 76.877 +/- acres from Greenfield Township into the City of Lancaster. [Commissioners]
- 2019-09.17.f A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object category for the Fund# 2800 – Fairfield County Commissioners/Airport [Commissioners]
- 2019-09.17.g A resolution approving an account to account transfer into a major expense category – Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2019-09.17.h A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursement for Fairfield Department of Health – Fund #7012 & Fund# 7321 [Commissioners]
- 2019-09.17.i A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursement for Fairfield County Historical Parks – Fund # 7308 [Commissioners]

Discussion: Mr. Levacy spoke about the importance of the US Constitution.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Approval of the Common Pleas Court Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Common Pleas Court resolution to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expense category for fund #8225 – Targeting Community Alternatives to Prison Grant to establish a budget for 2019 – Fairfield County Common Pleas; see resolution 2019-09.17.j.

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated this resolution was reflective of the change in TCAP from the Commission administering the grant to Common Pleas administering the grant. This is a partnership between the Commission, Common Pleas Court, and Sheriff's Office.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Approval of the Engineer Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Engineer resolutions:

- 2019-09.17.k A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the FAI-CR33A-3.26 Intersection Improvement Project. [Engineer]
- 2019-09.17.l A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of Memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 2050 for annual inspections in various subdivisions as of 9/9/19 [Engineer]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Regular Meeting #37 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 17, 2019**

Approval of the Human Resources Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Human Resources resolution to authorize the County Administrative to approve contracts and agreements associated with the Fairfield County Health Benefit Plan through the 2021 plan year; see resolution 2019-09.17.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Approval of the IT Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the IT resolution approving account to account transfers in a major object expense category for Information Technology; see resolution 2019-09.17.n.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Approval of the JFS Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following JFS resolutions:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 2019-09.17.o | A resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the General Fund to Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) Grant fund #2843 Fairfield County JFS [JFS] |
| 2019-09.17.p | A Resolution to approve to rescind Resolution # 2019-09.10. r., approval of Approving Fairfield County Plan for Child, Family and Adult Community and Protective Services Expenditures (State Budget Line Item 533) from the Public Assistance Fund (2018) to Fund #2072, Protective Services Fund - FCJFS [JFS] |
| 2019-09.17.q | A resolution approving Fairfield County Plan for Child, Family and Adult Community and Protective Services Expenditures (State Budget Line Item 533) Job & Family Services [JFS] |
| 2019-09.17.r | A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services [JFS] |

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated the Commission was appreciative of JFS leadership for the Ohio START grant and that this resolution was an advance while the state catches up on their financial processes for the grant.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Approval of the Juvenile/Probate Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the JFS resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from Fund #2856 Child Abuse & Neglect Discretionary Fund (QIC); see resolution 2019-09.17.s.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

24

81

25

I am voting against the “withdrawal of the withdrawal” today. I expect that I will be alone in that, and I think that’s completely OK. In my nine months on this Commission I’ve not disagreed one time with my fellow Commissioners both of whom I respect to the highest level. I don’t expect that we will vote in different ways often, but I don’t think it’s unhealthy when we do.

This is an incredibly complex and difficult issue that has taken years to bubble to the surface. I have great appreciation for the work that Commissioner Davis and Juvenile Court Judge Vandervoort have done to negotiate what ultimately is a better financial deal for Fairfield County than we would have experienced had their efforts not been made.

Before my time here began, Commissioner Davis tasked himself with what I believe to be the impossible job of creating a solution that involves three other sets of County Commissioners, three other sets of Juvenile Court Judges, the Board of Directors of the MCJDC, and the Leadership Team that runs the Detention Center on a daily basis. Getting all of those people, with all of those disparate agendas and desired outcomes to come to any agreement, much less one that lines up directly with Fairfield County’s wants and needs is, in my mind, an impossible mission. I greatly appreciate the incredible time invested and effort put forth by both Commissioner Davis and Judge Vandervoort.

To me the issue is more complex than just the financial situation, but let’s talk about that for a minute. The numbers are clear to see. Fairfield County is paying according to an agreement that was made years ago when a different judge, using a different set of guiding principles, in a much different time, sent many more of our Fairfield County youth into detention. Judge Vandervoort, to her credit, has been innovative, forward thinking, and impactful as she has been creating and implementing best practices that are yielding significantly better outcomes for the youths that find themselves before her. Judge Vandervoort is finding a myriad of solutions that are less reliant on detention and are yielding better results. She has and should be commended for the tremendous effort that she and her leadership team have put into creating better outcomes because – at the end of the day – we all want those who have strayed off the path at a young age to be guided back to it, in a way that will lead to them becoming productive citizens of Fairfield County.

A side effect of these innovative practices and positive outcomes is that Fairfield County is and has been for some time now using less and less beds on an average basis at the Detention Center. The result of THAT – over time – is that Fairfield County is paying a significantly disproportionate share of the overall cost of the operation of the Detention Center. It has been estimated that the budget number that has been agreed to for 2020 - \$800,000, is perhaps \$400,000 more than it would cost us to pay a proportionate share based on our average usage; and perhaps \$400,000 more than it would cost to house our detained youth in another county. Understand that those are round numbers and are estimates; but we can all agree that \$800,000, while less than the \$1 million that is called for in our agreement, is a number that is not in line with where we should be.

A second consideration has to do with the word “partnership.” To his credit, Commissioner Davis saw this problem coming several years ago and began discussions with the three other counties that are involved in the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center “partnership.” As he has describes it, the alarms that he was setting off have been completely ignored by our partners. Over the years Licking County in particular has taken advantage of the situation as it continues to use a disproportionate share of the available beds in the Detention Center while paying not a proportionate share, but what the agreement calls for. So, in reality, Fairfield County has for years been subsidizing Licking County.

When confronted with this through numerous discussions led by Commissioner Davis throughout 2019, the remaining county’s Commissioners and Judges, rather than recognizing the disparity and working in partnership to find a solution that would work for all, chose to become defensive, contentious, and bullying.

And the SOLUTION that this group came to that would ALLOW Fairfield County to drop down from a \$1 million bill in 2020 to the agreed upon \$800,000 is to use carryover money to make up the difference. Deficit spending. Keeping in mind that the carryover itself has been disproportionately contributed to by Fairfield County. So the solution that our partners have agreed to is to use a chunk of our own money to ALLOW us to overpay by \$400,000 in 2020.

To me, a true partnership is one in which there is give and take – compromise – an effort to find a solution that works for all of the partners. This solution, to me, is not the result of committed partners digging in to create a remedy that all involved can live with. Rather, it appears to be a group of people who are unwilling to bend because they believe they hold a stronger hand and, as such, are able to impose their will. This is not a partnership. And if not, why are we committed to continuing it?

Finally, I am concerned about the future and evolution of the Detention Center itself. I am still learning about so many aspects of the County Commission job and know that there is still so much I don’t know about our overall Juvenile Courts program. Having said that, it seems clear to me that the landscape is changing not only here in Fairfield County and in the State of Ohio, but across the nation. It seems that the Judicial system is coming to realize that “locking them up” while certainly necessary in some situations, is not a recipe for long term success for a great number of young people. As noted earlier, Judges like our own Judge Vandervoort are finding much better, more productive, more effective ways to positively impact the lives of those that come before them. My sense is that our MCJDC Board has been slow to adapt to this changing landscape. Commissioner Davis reported from a recent meeting that the Leadership Team and the Board are FINALLY – just within the past two months - initiating discussions about how the facility, policies and procedures might some day be amended to deal with a new way of conducting the business of youth reformation. A forward-thinking Board would have begun that conversation in earnest several years ago when the sea change in youth detention was becoming a reality. I do not have a high level of confidence that significant change in the way our MCJDC is operated will happen in the near term, landing us right back here in this exact same conversation one year from now.

At the end of the day that's why I am voting no on this resolution. Because I strongly believe that we will be back here having this same conversation 12 months from now. The financial numbers don't add up today and won't be significantly different in 2020. The partnership we find ourselves in is slanted significantly against us, and the MCJDC is not nimble or willing enough to make the changes needed in the next year to align itself with the future of youth detention. Believing all of this to be true, I believe that we should rip the band-aid off and find a better answer. I won't pretend to have that answer nor do I think there is a great, simple answer on the table as we sit here today. But I believe that the really smart group of people in this room and involved in this issue could find a way.

In closing I want to re-iterate the immense respect I have for Commissioner Davis and Judge Vandervoort and the significant effort that they have put into this project. They took on the impossible task and came up with something that I know Fairfield County can and will live with for 2020. The only reason I have even considered voting in favor of withdrawing the withdrawal is out of respect for the two of them and the work they have done. But at the end of the day I think we need to move in a different direction sooner rather than later and for that reason I will be voting no.

Jeffrey Fix

Fairfield County Commissioner

9/17/19

